§ 1015.7

the offset would not otherwise be contrary to law.

§ 1015.7 Settlement of claims.

- (a) In accordance with the provisions of 4 CFR part 103, DOE officials listed in §1015.5(c) of this part may settle claims not exceeding \$20,000, exclusive of interest, penalties, and administrative charges, by compromise at less than the principal of the claim if:
- (1) The debtor shows an inability to pay the full amount within a reasonable time or refuses to pay the claim in full and DOE is unable to enforce collection in full within a reasonable time by enforced collection proceedings;
- (2) There is real doubt concerning the Government's ability to prove its case in court for the full amount claimed, either because of the legal issues involved or a bona fide dispute as to the facts:
- (3) The amount of the claim does not justify the actual foreseeable cost of collecting the claim; or
- (4) A combination of the above rea-
- (b) DOE may suspend or terminate collection action in accordance with the terms and procedures contained in 4 CFR part 104.

§ 1015.8 Referral for litigation.

Claims on which aggressive collection action has been taken in accordance with 4 CFR part 102 and which cannot be compromised or on which collection action cannot be suspended or terminated under 4 CFR parts 103 and 104 will be referred to the General Accounting Office or the Department of Justice, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures in 4 CFR part

§1015.9 Disclosure to consumer reporting agencies and referral to collection agencies.

DOE may disclose delinquent debts to consumer reporting agencies in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(f) and may refer delinquent debts to debt collection agencies under the revised Federal Claims Collection Standards and other applicable authorities. Information will be disclosed to reporting agencies and referred to collection agencies in accordance with the terms and conditions of agreements entered into between the General Services Administration, DOE, and the reporting and collection agencies. The terms and conditions of such agreements shall specify that all of the rights and protections afforded to the debtor under 31 U.S.C. 3711(f) have been fulfilled.

§ 1015.10 Credit report.

In order to aid DOE in making appropriate determinations as to the collection and compromise of claims; the collection of interest, administrative charges, and penalty charges; the use of administrative offset; the use of other collection methods; and the likelihood of collecting the claim, DOE may institute a credit investigation of the debtor at any time following receipt of knowledge of the claim.

PART 1016—SAFEGUARDING OF RESTRICTED DATA

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1016.31 Access to Restricted Data.

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